

D R A F T

BADY
research proposal
WP1a

December 2010

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1. Objective

According to the outlines *the Flagship Project Alcohol & Drug Prevention among Youth in the Baltic Sea Region*, the mapping of social indicators as the basis for evidence based prevention in the environment of youth is of utmost importance. The aim of WP1a is to fulfill this objective.

Here it is proposed to initiate, launch and coordinate three fully comparative studies amongst 15 and 16 year old students in the (x) participating cities and in (y) control cities at the same time as described in article 2.

The primary aim of the proposed project is to map both risk and protective factors for substance use (alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs) among youth in the different cities. The outcome will demonstrate the various risk and protective factors in the cities that will be a tool for policymakers and practitioners in the different communities to implement evidence based interventions focusing on lifestyles and culture of young people. The research emphasizes the use of knowledge and information in areas relevant to young people.

The research questionnaires will focus on lifestyle and leisure time activities, local community networks, negative/positive life events and strain, parents and family, peer group, socio-economic issues, socio-psychological issues, studies and school, substance use, values and attitudes of youth and other items of relevance. The questionnaires are based on a long tradition of international mapping of social indicators used as a basis for prevention in Scandinavia and Europe but final questionnaires will be agreed upon between research institutions in the relevant cities.

ICSRA (Rannsóknir og greining ehf), the Icelandic Centre for Social Research and Analysis is responsible for administering and coordinating the study carried out in close cooperation with the participating cities of the programme. Each participating city will be responsible for the collection of the data in their area under ICSRA supervision. Preparations start in the autumn of 2011 and the first survey will be carried out in early 2012, the second in 2014 and the last one in 2016. The data and research material will be accumulated by ICSRA and made accessible to all partners for analytical purposes.

2. Activities

It is anticipated that each city will appoint / propose a local coordination group to gather data in the relevant city. Furthermore, each participating city shall nominate a primary contact person responsible for disseminating information to and from the coordination group. The contact person shall participate in meetings to discuss the questionnaire, prior to the research. This is considered

good practice since different cities may have different issues of importance to youth lifestyles and activities.

The ICSRA will be responsible for the coordination and practice of data collection in each city. Each partner in the programme, in collaboration with the ICSRA, will assure that the proper data collection protocols are complied with and carried out by professional bodies such as a University or Research Institution. Local researchers in each participating city are responsible for complying with the data collection protocols set forth by ICSRA according to the research plan that is outlined separately.

Local participants are responsible for the following tasks under ICSRA supervision:

- Cooperation with schools
- Drawing a random based class sample
- Implementing the survey and collecting data from students
- Writing of a technical report

The research proposal anticipates that three cross-sectional data collections (surveys) will take place in each city, among youth of the same age-group. The first and last data collections are extensive and measure various societal factors associated with risky behaviour at the starting point of the project and again two years after the project ends. The focus on measures in age-groups instead of birth cohorts enables the research partners to focus on environmental changes rather than within-group change across time, which is central to the prevention model.

A random class based sample of 3000 students pr. city is suggested. In the event we will have between 65 to 70% response rate, that will still leave us with around 2000 students or around 1000 male and 1000 females for analysis as well as enough material to carry out a more local analysis with neighbourhoods or other areas of interest in mind.

The first data collection will form the basis for recommendations to prevention bodies in the cities. ICSRA will produce separate descriptive reports for each city in the program indicating the connection between substance use and various societal factors, being both risk and protective. The initial city reports will indicate in an accessible and simple manner what changes in society might be of value towards lesser substance use and support the semi-standardized strategy protocol provided by BADY.

The second data collection, two years after the first BADY initiatives, will measure if and how substance use has changed among the studied age group as initially measured. On this occasion ICSRA will provide each city with descriptive reports as before.

The third and final data collection will again, as the first one, measure both substance use and the possible change in societal factors after four years of the semi-standardized strategy protocol in action.

The role and responsibility of the WP1a leaders is to set up and coordinate the research work from a-z in all the cities, to guarantee that all field procedures (translations and back translations, sampling frame and drawing of sample, school preparation and cooperation, data entry modules, data entry, e.t.c.) are according to best known standards, making of reports for the cities and introducing results.

Activities in Detail

A survey using a fully comparable questionnaire will be administered at the same time in all participating cities. Data shall be collected at the same time, if possible, and preferably in the same week in all cities. A typical week will be selected (i.e. not a week following a holiday or other events scheduled the same week).

Comparable data collection is fundamental. Therefore a standardised sampling frame is imperative and convenience samples shall be entirely avoided. A population sample, representative of the age group X to Y year olds that attends local schools, will be randomly drawn in each city.

The survey will be school-based and the sample unit will be school classes rather than entire schools or individual students. School classes will be randomly selected from a list of classes in every participating city. The sample shall include at least 3000 individuals expecting a minimal number of 2000 responses.

The school classes shall without exceptions be randomly selected. A randomly selected class shall never be substituted by another class. The entire class is selected and all students in the class complete the questionnaire at the same time in the classroom (unless a student wishes not to participate).

A random sample of classes will automatically provide a representative sample. This will make stratification according to neighbourhood or school types largely unnecessary, as well as rather complicated weighting procedures.

It is of crucial importance that the preparation of the study (i.e. sample selection, survey administration etc.) is highly organized in every way. Every decision made has to be noted in order to ensure that comparisons can be made between countries. All decisions made when drawing the sample shall therefore be carefully documented in a technical report.

The data collection shall preferably be done in the same lesson in all participating classes in a particular school.

The same questionnaire will be used in every city, with the same questions. The questions will be exactly the same and thereby fully comparable in every city.

In order to ensure comparability the translation process will include translations of the final questionnaire into the language of every participating city.

The questionnaire will be a traditional paper-and-pen survey. The survey shall be administered by a person that the students trust (research assistant or teacher). This decision is up to the study team in every participating city in consultation with the ICSRA. Teachers can also be asked to assist to insure discipline in the classroom, especially when trouble is anticipated. The teacher would then be asked to stay in the front of the classroom but not have anything to do with the administration of the survey. Teachers and/or survey leaders should not circulate the room during the data collection. Teachers are not allowed to take a look at any questionnaires while and after the students complete the survey.

The students will be made fully aware that the survey is anonymous. They are not to write their name on the questionnaire or their identification number. After the students have completed the survey they place the questionnaire in a sealed envelope. Neither the questionnaires nor the envelopes contain any identification of participants (names or identification numbers). Only school classes will be given identification numbers. All the envelopes containing the questionnaire will then be returned unopened to the research team in each city where data entry will begin.

Research participants receive detailed instructions of field procedures.

After the implementation of the questionnaire the research team in each city will scan the questionnaires optically. ICSRA will provide detailed information on scanning facilities nearest to the research center (in case the relevant research institution does not possess an optical scanner). ICSRA will also provide all the scanning centres with standardized programming / coding for the relevant scanning process. In that way fully coordinated data entry is secured.

Every questionnaire will receive its' pre-coded individual number before scanning also to ensure comparable data. It is necessary to handle data with utmost care and the importance of good quality of data entry should be noted. Questionnaires, that are obviously not honestly answered, will be sorted out in the data cleaning process.

The ICSRA will write local city reports after each survey. After the data processing in each city its representatives will issue a technical report. National reports will be optional but they are followed by an international report made by the DCC for that purpose. Data will be on SPSS format.

Each technical report shall contain a description of the sampling frame, the sampling procedure and how the data collection was done, as well as the number of absent students, response rate, etc. A copy of the original native language questionnaire, as well as an English version, should be attached to each technical report.

3. Timeline

For consideration from ICSRAs' experience in international research and coordination:

- *The process of starting the assembly of a research team across the participating cities, deciding on the final version of the first questionnaire, preparing data collection locally, collecting the data, data entry, -processing and making of reports for all relevant cities is a task that takes time and careful evaluation. It is therefore recommended that 10 to 12 months will be provided at the start of the project to assure that everything is carried out according to strict scientific standards.*
- *In order for T1 to start during the first six months of 2012 in the Work Packages following WP1a we propose that it should be given a thought to start WP1a already in the fall of 2011, i.e. if that is technically possible due to other business. We therefore propose T ZERO as an option. If that is not realistic all items should be moved 6 months ahead.*

T ZERO – June to December 2011

1. June 2011
 - a. BADY/ICSRA introduces the research project to the researchers appointed by the cities.
 - b. Invitation to first joint meeting in August 2011.
2. August 2011
 - a. Networks formed (national supervision established, work groups and researchers pr. city and contact persons appointed).
 - b. Agreement on working platform agreed and signed by all participants.
 - c. Joint work-group meeting:
 - i. Research plan introduced and discussed.
 - ii. Coordination of project introduced.
 - iii. Field procedures introduced and discussed.

- iv. Introduction of base questionnaire (something to work from).
 - v. Timeline for amendments and additions given until October 1 st.
3. October 2011
- a. Joint questionnaire meeting
 - b. Sampling frame and drawing of sample until November 2011
 - c. Legal framework explored: First schools contact
 - d. School preparations start
4. November 2011
- a. Final questionnaire agreed upon
 - b. Translation into (x) different languages
 - c. Back translations ready same month.
5. December 2011
- a. Making of a coordinated questionnaire template with fixed tickboxes for synchronized data entry.
 - b. Questionnaire template sent to participants with relevant language.

T 1 – January to June 2012

6. January
- a. Printing of questionnaires and other necessary forms
7. February
- a. Data collection
 - b. Research teams receive coordinated Data entry modules
 - c. Data entry until March 30th (Data entry in each city)
8. March / April
- a. Data processing (ICSRA),
 - b. Technical reports
 - c. Reports made for each city (ICSRA)
9. May
- a. Introduction of results

T2 July to December 2012

T3 January to June 2013

T4 July to December 2013

T5 January to June 2014

February 2014 Data collection number 2 – Intermediate

T6 July to December 2014

T7 January to December 2016

February 2016 Data collection number 3 - Final

4. Added value

What is the added value(s) for doing the activities as an EU-project compared to a number of national projects?

Substance use is a global phenomenon that influences the lifestyle and development of youth all around. The peer group influences are paramount to a successful intervention and change of directions among young people. In order to be able to implement change with an environmental focus on building around the individuals that make the peer groups we need to form another peer group of motivated people that can share their experiences across cities and countries. Decades of research have thought us that adolescents function indeed very similarly across different spaces and that we have known for a long time that similar factors influence their lifestyle. With this in mind we will become much stronger and focused on our mutual objectives by working together, comparing experiences, strengths and weaknesses, hopes and disappointments, and results if we work collaboratively and share our findings in relevant settings. This will be possible with the coordinated reports made by ICSRA and disseminated to all participating cities. The coordinated time sequence of the studies will help all participating parties to understand how change is implemented and what the common obstacles are. Each data collection ensures an evaluation of our combined efforts and breeds learning about what works and what does not. The meeting and sharing of experiences between the city representatives ensures a positive contamination across Europe that will be of benefit in the near and distant future. Substance use is a task without time limits. Each groups of young people is followed by a new

group of parents and peers so we need to disseminate and distribute our knowledge as widely as possible in order to have long term impact. Later, hopefully, a seed has been planted that can be of use for the cities to begin their own data oriented prevention strategies in line with the experience of the BADY project.

5. Sustainability

In what way(s) do the activities aim to continue on a long-term and what organisation will/can be responsible for maintaining the work after 2014?

6. Draft budget

Specify estimated costs for the WP (staff (person/months), meeting arrangements, travel and accommodation, activities/interventions).

T ZERO – June to December 2011

For consideration from ICSRAs' experience in international research and coordination:

- *This estimate is based on previous budget data from research preparations and mapping that already took place in various projects dating between 2006 to 2009.*
 - *If the timeframe needs to be moved to T 1 or January 2012 onwards than all the same estimations apply.*
1. June 2011 to May 2012. Full time expert coordinator / administrator, with the task to coordinate the research teams, guarantee coordinated data collection and database in the participating cities. May be divided on 2-3 persons from ICSRA.
 - a. EUR: est 80.000,- for the whole period.
 2. August: Common meeting with heads of researchers units in order to introduce draft concept of questionnaire, field procedures and team coordination. A meeting is proposed in the most economic city to travel to for all attending parties. Needs to be decided upon after cities have been selected.

- a. EUR: est 500 pr. person. Travel (air, train, bus) and one night sleepover at a hotel. Estimated that 60 - 70% attend and in some cases a research team may take care of more than one city. Therefore we estimate 25 persons including WP lead and project lead.
= EUR est 12.500,-
3. October (same as 2.) Common meeting with heads of researchers units in order to finalize questionnaire, field procedures and other. A meeting is proposed in the most economic city to travel to for all attending parties. Needs to be decided upon after cities have been selected.
 - a. EUR: 12.500,-
4. Making of a (layout) coordinated questionnaire template in layers with fixed tickboxes for synchronized data entry. Language of base questionnaire is English and than 10 additional languages are set up.
 - a. EUR: 5000,- for setup of all 10 languages in a coordinated layout for scanning/data entry.
5. Translations into the different languages, back translations and relevant corrections and adjustments to final language. Since the number of languages is not at hand we estimate 10 languages. Must be altered and based on actual quotes when cities have been selected.
 - a. EUR: est. 1200 pr. language = EUR: 12.000,-
6. Printing of questionnaires and confidentiality envelopes pr. city. In most cases 2-4 cities can use the same printrun, i.e. within country.
 - a. EUR: est. 1500,- pr. city (including C4 confidentiality envelopes)
= EUR 45.000,-.
7. Local administration pr city, sampling, contact with schools, school preparations, packaging, preparations for distribution of questionnaires, reception of questionnaires, data entry (in to a predetermined data entry mode from ICSRA), delivery of data to commom database and technical report.
 - a. EUR: 3.000,- pr. city = EUR 90.000,-

8. Delivery / mail to schools and back to research centres. (Varies somewhat also so we would like to have quotes from the mail offices in the cities before the final budget plan).

- a. EUR: est. 500 pr city = EUR 15.000,-

SUMMARY. Budget for complete mapping in 30cities:

1.	<i>Full time expert coordination</i>	<i>80000</i>
2.	<i>Coordination meeting 1</i>	<i>12500</i>
3.	<i>Coordination meeting 2</i>	<i>12500</i>
4.	<i>Layout and printing prep.</i>	<i>5000</i>
5.	<i>Translations and back transl.</i>	<i>12000</i>
6.	<i>Printing</i>	<i>45000</i>
7.	<i>Local administration in cities</i>	<i>90000</i>
8.	<i>Delivery and mail</i>	<i>15000</i>
9.	<i>Data processing</i>	<i>4000</i>
10.	<i>City reports, 30 in all</i>	<i>22000</i>
		<i>298000</i>

T 1 – January to June 2012

1. Data entry module, processing, cleaning, merging and analysis for all participating cities.

- a. EUR: 4.000,-

2. City reports for each city. The data and research material accumulated and made accessible to all partners for analytical purposes. Descriptive and risk and protective factors.

- a. EUR: est. 22.000,- delivered in electronic format.

3. Optional: Introductory meetings with WP´s and local cities. Common meeting with WP leaders and researchers introducing the results from the cities.

- a. EUR: depending on method.

T5 January to June 2014

February 2014 Data collection number 2 – Intermediate

T7 January to December 2016

February 2016 Data collection number 3 - Final

7. Organization

Describe how the WP will be organised (lead/co-lead, reporting to and from national coordinators, community coordinators and WP Lead)

ICSRA will use the same organizational methods here as in previous coordination of research in Europe. The lead is in the hands of ICSRA who is responsible for coordinating the work of all the research institutions in the various cities. Co lead is in the hands of ICSRA specialists in data analysis and reporting. Through every step of the mapping project the lead of WP1a will consult with and report to the national coordinators. Community coordinators will be reported to where applicable. After data has been collected the specialists' reports on risk and protective factors in each city will be introduced to the national- and community coordinators through common meetings and local seminars. The WP lead will make shure that the information from the mapping is clear and easy to use for the remaining WPs'.